

LAKE COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL CORPORATIONS

PRELIMINARY PLAN
(TENTATIVE, FOR CONSIDERATION ONLY)

November 30, 1960

I. PLAN NO. 3-A (Seven Unit Federated Plan)

II. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PLAN:

- A. The federated concept for administrative organization is based on two premises:
 - 1. Many functions of government need to be integrated throughout the metropolitan area.
 - 2. There is merit in keeping government as close to the people as possible.
- B. The federated plan creates two levels of school government.
 - 1. A county-wide agency to perform selected functions that might best be performed from this level. (Lake County Unified School Corporation)
 - 2. Local units that would continue to control and perform functions that might best be performed at the local level. (Name School Corporation)
- C. The redistribution of administrative functions
 - 1. Under the federated plan, there are a limited number of functions that the local units allocate to the county-wide unit.
 - a. This means an upward extension of certain functions from the local units to the county unit.
 - 2. Nature of administrative functions that might be integrated and unified on a county wide basis:
 - a. County-wide uniform property tax rate to finance the foundation program of education in each local school corporation. Local school corporations would have the freedom to put on an additional local tax rate that would be collected on the taxable property of the local unit.
 - b. Long range school building and site planning and the approval of school building and site proposals (including county wide plans for capital expenditure financing).
 - c. Providing special educational services that could not be provided adequately at the local level.
 - d. Over-all coordination of the educational programs in Lake County.
 - 3. Local corporations would continue to retain all rights, powers, duties, and liabilities not assigned to the county unit.
- D. Proposed Local Units to be established within the federated system:

Unit I	Hammond and Whiting	Unit IV	Hobart Township, Hobart, East Gary
Unit II	East Chicago	Unit V	Munster, Highland and Griffith
Unit III	Gary and Calumet Township	Unit VI	Schererville; St. John and Ross Twp.
		Unit VII	Crown Point; Center, Cedar Creek, Eagle Creek, Hanover, West Creek and Winfield Townships

III. SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL DATA*

A. School Population Data for Each Unit

1. School Enrollments 1959-1960

	1-8	9-12	1-12	Projected, 1964 1-12	Estimated
Unit I	13,244	5,515	18,759	23,442	
Unit II	6,875	2,208	9,083	9,963	
Unit III	32,488	9,353	41,841	59,200	
Unit IV	6,675	2,190	8,865	10,678	
Unit V	4,332	1,723	6,055	8,783	
Unit VI	3,333	1,407	4,740	7,182	
Unit VII	4,605	1,899	6,504	8,632	
Totals (County)	71,552	24,295	95,847	127,880	

B. Financial Data

1. Assessed Valuation (For County)

a. Actual \$ 817,279,765

b. Adjusted \$1,063,854,068 (adjustment factor 1.3017)

2. Financial Ability

a. For county (federated agency)

(1) Actual \$ 8,939 per pupil, 1-12 in ADA

(2) Adjusted \$11,635 per pupil, 1-12 in ADA

b. For each local unit

	Assessed Valuation (Adjusted)	Resident Pupils, 1-12, ADA	Assessed Valuation per Pupil, 1-12 ADA
Unit I	264,143,977	17,871	14,781
Unit II	238,789,380	8,642	27,631
Unit III	380,747,231	39,872	9,549
Unit IV	38,972,941	8,435	4,620
Unit V	47,943,291	5,823	8,233
Unit VI	40,249,689	4,554	8,838
Unit VII	53,007,559	6,235	8,502
Total/Average	1,063,854,068	91,432	11,635

c. Bonding Power, Lake County

(1) Two per cent of actual assessed valuation (Lake County, 1959)

(a) \$817,279,765 X .02 \$16,345,596

(2) Outstanding bonds (Oct., 1959) 10,968,500

(3) Balance of bonding power \$ 5,377,096

* As received and compiled by the Lake County Committee (OCTOBER, 1959)

IV. LEGAL STRUCTURE

A. Names

1. Local School Corporations

- a. Unit I. Hammond-Whiting School Corporation
- b. Unit II East Chicago School Corporation
- c. Unit III Gary-Calumet School Corporation
- d. Unit IV Hobart-East Gary School Corporation
- e. Unit V North-Calumet School Corporation
- f. Unit VI Ross-St. John School Corporation
- g. Unit VII South Lake School Corporation

2. County School Corporation

- a. Lake County Unified School Corporation

B. Boundaries

1. Local School Corporations

- Unit I Hammond and Whiting
- Unit II East Chicago
- Unit III Gary and Calumet Township
- Unit IV Hobart, East Gary and Hobart Township
- Unit V Griffith, Highland and Munster
- Unit VI Ross Township, St. John Township and Schererville
- Unit VII Crown Point, Center Township, Cedar Creek Township, Eagle Creek Township, Hanover Township, West Creek Township, and Winfield Township

2. Lake County Unified School Corporation

Boundaries of Lake County

C. Rights, powers, duties and liabilities.

1. Local School Corporations

- a. The local school corporation shall be in charge of the educational affairs of the corporation. The board of school trustees of the local school corporation shall be charged by State Law with the authority and responsibility for the management and operational functions of the school corporation.

The board of school trustees shall have the rights, powers, duties and liabilities vested in boards of school trustees of cities of the classification of Second class as expressly conferred or clearly implied, and notwithstanding any other law or part thereof.

Among the functions to be performed by the board of school trustees of each local school corporation are the following:

- (1) To assist in the formulation and approve the policies and program according to which the board and its professional and other employees shall operate.
- (2) To employ a Superintendent of Schools, prescribe his powers and duties, and to whom shall be delegated the authority and responsibility of administering the educational policies and program of the corporation.

- (3) To prescribe and enforce whatever rules and regulations are necessary for their own effective operation and for the government of the schools under their jurisdiction, provided said rules are consistent with the law.
- (4) To have authority to prescribe and approve business management practices relative to (a) the preparation and administration of the budget, (b) the care and management of all school properties, (c) the preparation, audit, and appraisal of personnel and (e) the admitting non-resident pupils.
- (5) To have authority to adopt and present the annual financial budget which has been prepared for its consideration.
- (6) To have the authority to determine, certify, and submit tax levies for placement upon the taxable property (1) of the county for the county share and (2) of the local corporation for the local initiative share adequate for the current expenses and for the retiring of indebtedness; provided such tax shall not exceed the allowable tax limits.
- (7) To have the authority to accept, receive, and expend funds in conformity with the purposes and requirements thereof.
- (8) To have the authority to act within its corporate capacity with regard to powers clearly expressed or implied such as (1) to sue or be sued, (2) to contract and be contracted with, and (3) to delegate ministerial but not discretionary authority.
- (9) To initiate school building and site and capital equipment proposals and to negotiate with the Lake County Unified School Corporation board of school trustees for approval of the proposals submitted.
- (10) To have the authority to make and effect temporary loans according to law as may be needed for the necessary and ordinary educational commitments of the corporation.
- (11) To have the authority where it is determined the need exists for a new school facility that is not included in the county-wide school facility plan to enter into an agreement to lease such facility and to renew such lease or to purchase the facility from a non-profit, private holding corporation as long as the gross amount of the obligation does not exceed at any time an amount equivalent to 10 per cent of the adjusted assessed valuation of the taxable property of the local corporation.
- (12) To have the authority to establish an accumulative building fund tax rate not to exceed 35 cents for each one hundred dollars of taxable property, for a period not to exceed 12 years.
- (13) To have the authority to establish personnel policies and practices, consistent with the law, relative to such things as wages, salary schedules, sick leave, insurance contracts, and the like.

2. Lake County Unified School Corporation

a. The Lake County Unified School Corporation, acting within the limits of its corporate capacity as an agency of State government and in behalf of the several local school corporations of Lake County, shall be charged with selected financial, educational services, and coordination functions as expressly conferred or clearly implied.

The Board of School Trustees of the Lake County Unified School Corporation shall have the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities as follows:

GENERAL (Related to the contract of the operations of the unified corporation itself)

- (1) To assist in the formulation and approve the policies and program according to which the board and its professional and other employees shall operate provided said policies and programs are consistent with the expressly conferred or clearly implied functions of the corporation.
- (2) To prescribe and enforce whatever rules and regulations are necessary for their own effective operation and for the government of the educational services under their jurisdiction, provided said rules are consistent with the law.
- (3) To employ a Superintendent of Schools for the Lake County Unified School Corporation, prescribe his powers and duties, and to whom shall be delegated the authority and responsibility of administering the educational policies and program of the unified school corporation.
- (4) To establish appropriate business management and personnel management policies and practices adequate and appropriate for the administration activities of the unified school corporation.
- (5) To have the authority to adopt and present the annual financial budget which has been prepared for said corporation, and to determine, certify, and submit tax levies for placement upon the taxable property of the county adequate for current expenses and for retiring indebtedness of the corporation; provided such tax shall not exceed the allocable tax limits.
- (6) To have the authority to act within its corporate capacity with regard to powers and rights clearly expressed or implied such as (1) to sue or be sued, (2) to contract and be contracted with, (3) to delegate ministerial but not discretionary authority, (4) to make and effect temporary loans, (5) to care, manage, and insure all properties, and (6) to acquire, lease, transfer, and sell property.
- (7) To have the authority to accept, receive, and expend funds in conformity with the purpose and requirements thereof.

FUNCTIONS (Provided in behalf of local school corporations)

FINANCIAL

- (1) To receive for audit, certification, and presentation the annual financial budgets of the several local school corporations to determine the levies to be made on taxable property of Lake County for support of the county-wide foundation program of education, and certify, present, and submit additional levies to be made on the taxable property of the respective local corporations at the rate required locally for said corporations to pay excess, local instructive costs of education not a part of the county-wide foundation support program.
- (2) To have the authority to accept, receive, and distribute funds received for and payable to the several local school corporations.
- (3) To have the authority (1) to issue bonds and levy taxes to pay for same, (2) to establish a cumulative building fund rate not to exceed 90 cents for each \$100.00 of taxable property for a period not to exceed 12 years, and (3) to apply and negotiate for authorized funds from other sources, consistent with the law, to finance capital expenditures for new facilities and equipment or for improvements and additions to existing facilities and equipments authorized in behalf of the several local school corporations.
- (4) To have the authority to enter into an agreement to lease school facilities constructed by a non-profit, private school building corporation and to renew the lease or purchase the facilities from the holding corporation.
- (5) To assume the outstanding obligations (debentures) involving capital assets and liabilities of the several local school corporations.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- (6) To accept responsibility for the establishment and operation of special schools and/or classes as may be authorized in behalf of and by action of the several local school corporations as may be needed for:
 - (a) special needs of exceptional (handicapped) children
 - (b) specialized technical and vocational education
 - (c) other educational services
- (7) To develop in cooperation with the several local corporations, a long range, school building and site plan for Lake County, and to approve same, which shall then serve to guide the board in acting to authorize school building proposals submitted by the several local school corporations, and, further, to continually reappraise and modify the initial plan in accordance with changing needs and conditions.
- (8) To accept responsibility for providing and administering specialized service (e.g. special consultants, centralized purchasing and accounting, school transportation, teaching materials center, and research and statistical services) as may be authorized in behalf of and by the several local school corporations.

COORDINATION

- (9) To serve as an avenue of communication permitting for greater interchange and unity among the several local community school corporations.
- (10) To coordinate the individual efforts of constituent local school corporations to stimulate cooperative action among the several local school corporations.
- (11) To assist local school corporations in determining their educational needs.
- (12) To assist the State educational agency in the performance of its educational functions.

D. Board of School Trustees

- 1. Number of Members
 - a. There shall be seven (7) members on each local school corporation board of school trustees and on the Lake County Unified School Corporation board of school trustees.
- 2. Qualifications for Membership
 - a. Members (1) shall have reached the full age of twenty-five (25) years, (2) shall be qualified voters in the local municipality of Lake County in which they reside, and shall have been a resident in the local school corporation for three or more years.
- 3. Terms of Office
 - a. The full term of office for each member shall be four years, and members shall not be limited in the number of terms they may serve. Terms of office shall be overlapping with the term of office of not more than two members expiring at any one time. The initial terms shall be as follows.
 - 2 members - 4
 - 2 members - 3
 - 2 members - 2
 - 1 member - 1

Initial terms of office shall be determined by drawing lots. Each new appointment or re-appointment (unless made for an unexpired term) shall be for four years.
- 4. Method of Selection
 - a. All members shall be appointed
 - b. Appointment shall be on a non-partisan basis
 - c. Appointing procedures for each school corporation
 - (1) Hammond-Whiting: Four (4) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of Hammond and three (3) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of Whiting.
 - (2) East Chicago: Seven (7) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of East Chicago.
 - (3) Gary-Calumet: Five (5) members shall be appointed by the Mayor of Gary and two (2) members shall be appointed by the Calumet Township Trustees.

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- (4) Hobart-East-Gary: Two (2) members each shall be appointed by the Mayor of Hobart, the Hobart Township Trustee, and the East Gary President of Town Board. One (1) member shall be appointed by the joint action of the afore mentioned officials.
- (5) North-Calumet: Two (2) members each shall be appointed by the respective Town Board Chairmen of Griffith, Highland, and Munster. One (1) member shall be appointed by the joint action of the aforementioned officials.
- (6) Ross-St.John: Three (3) members each shall be appointed by the respective Township Trustees of Ross and St. John Townships. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Town Board Chairman of Schererville.
- (7) South Lake: One (1) member each shall be appointed by the respective township trustees of Cedar Creek, Center, Eagle Creek, Hanover, West Creek, and Winfield Townships. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Mayor of Crown Point.
- (8) Lake County Unified School Corporation: Each of the aforementioned Boards of School Trustees for the seven local school corporations shall elect from its membership and by its membership one member to be designated as a member of the Lake County Unified School Corporation Board of School Trustees.

5. Officers

- a. From among the membership and by the membership each school corporation shall annually select the following officers:
(1) President, (2) Vice President, (3) Treasurer, and (4) Secretary.

6. Compensation

- a. Each member of each local school corporation shall be compensated for his services in the amount of \$600.00 per annum.
- b. Each member of the Lake County Unified School Corporation shall be allowed an amount of \$600.00 per annum to cover expenses and services connected with the performance of his duties.

N. Disposition of Assets and Liabilities

1. Operating- to be assumed by the respective local school corporations
2. Capital- to be assumed by the unified school corporation.